

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091093
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091093

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR LEONARD

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 05491 ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC APR 8.

QUOTE: S E C R E T LONDON 05491

NODIS.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: STATUS OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL SHEVCHENKO

REF: STATE 91016

1. IN ABSENCE FROM LONDON OF THE AMBASSADOR,
DCM MET WITH SYG WALDHEIM AT 7:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME,
APRIL 8, TO CONVEY POINTS PER REFTEL.

2. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED THANKS FOR PROMPT INFORMATION.
HE REPORTED MEYERHOFF HAD HEARD FROM SHEVCHENKO
BY PHONE THAT LATTER HAD SENT A LETTER TO TROYANOVSKY
ASKING HIM TO COMMUNICATE SHEVCHENKO'S INTENTION TO
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BREZHNEV, TOGETHER WITH SHEVCHENKO'S RATIONALE THAT
STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE REPRESSIVE SOVIET REGIME. SYG
SAID ALSO THAT TROYANOVSKY HAD WRITTEN HIM SAYING SHEV-
CHENKO HAD DISAPPEARED AND ASKING SYG TO REQUEST U.S.
AUTHORITIES TO TRY TO FIND HIM AND TO INFORM THE SOVIETS
OF THE RESULTS OF THEIR ENDEAVORS.

3. ON SHEVCHENKO'S WHEREABOUTS, WALDHEIM SAID THAT NEITHER HE OR HIS STAFF WERE INFORMED. SHEVCHENKO, SYG SAID, REFUSED TO TELL MEYERHOFF WHERE HE WAS STAYING AND TO RESPOND TO MRS. SHEVCHENKO'S PLEA THAT HE CALL, ON THE GROUNDS THAT KGB OFFICIALS WERE AT SHEVCHENKO'S HOUSE. HOWEVER, SHEVCHENKO SAID HE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH WITH MEYERHOFF.

4. WITH REGARD TO NEXT STEPS, SYG SAID THE SITUATION WAS "VERY COMPLICATED" AND THAT HE ANTICIPATED SERIOUS PROBLEMS. SHEVCHENKO, WHILE AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT, IS ALSO THE HIGHEST RANKING SOVIET NATIONAL IN THE UN SECRETARIAT, AND LIKE OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS WAS APPOINTED ONLY AFTER CLOSEST CONSULTATION.

WALDHEIM UNDERLINED THAT HE IS SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL, AS THE U.S. KNEW IN THE CASE OF BILL BUFFUM, TO CONSULT CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING APPOINTMENTS. IN THE PRESENT CASE, HE BELIEVED THE SOVIETS WOULD PRESS HIM NOT TO RETAIN SHEVCHENKO IN THE SECRETARIAT, AND WERE HE TO DO SO CONTRARY TO THEIR WISH, THEY COULD CLAIM NOT TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE SECRETARIAT AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

5. IT IS CLEAR, SYG SAID, THAT SHEVCHENKO WANTS TO GIVE UP HIS POSITION IN THE SOVIET SERVICE AND, IN EFFECT, WANTS TO DEFECT. THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID DIFFI-
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CULTY WOULD BE IF SHEVCHENKO RESIGNED HIS UN POST AND SOUGHT ASYLUM.

6. WALDHEIM SAID THAT, HAVING CONVEYED TO U.S. THE SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHEVCHENKO'S WHEREABOUTS, HE WOULD LEAVE IT TO U.S. WHETHER AND HOW TO REPLY.

7. AS BACKGROUND TO SHEVCHENKO'S DECISION, SYG RECALLED THAT HE LATELY HAD BEEN ABSENT FREQUENTLY FROM HIS OFFICE, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. ALSO, SHEVCHENKO HAD ASKED TO EXTEND HIS APPOINTMENT FOR TWO YEARS, THOUGH SYG SAID THAT SHEVCHENKO HAD SAID AT THE TIME THAT HE PLANNED TO STAY ONLY A YEAR, UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT UNGA. THE EXTENSION HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR.

8. ON HIS OWN PLANS, WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD BE IN LONDON UNTIL THE MORNING OF APRIL 10, WHEN HE GOES TO DUBLIN. HE RETURNS TO LONDON APRIL 12, ENROUTE TO VIENNA, WHERE HE WILL REMAIN UNTIL ABOUT APRIL 16 OR 17.

BREWSTER UNQUOTE VANCE

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